Inclusion of food processing industry in priority sector lending

2455. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that food processing industry has been included in the priority sector lending by banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, how many food processing units have been covered by each bank and financial institutions under priority sector lending during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether reluctance on the part of banks and financial institutions has come to the notice of Government; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and remedial measures taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) do not have the information in the manner asked for.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India have not received any complaints regarding reluctance on the part of banks and financial institutions in providing credit to food processing units.

Irregularities in the purchase of machinery/equipments concerning Directorate of Printing

2456. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CAG has received some references from Members of Parliament regarding large-scale irregularities in the purchase of machineries/ equipments and large quantity of Printing Paper concerning Directorate of Printing;

(b) if so, what is the latest status of the investigating report on each aspect mentioned in reference dated 6th September, 2000; and

(c) the action proposed by the CAG in the matter where hundreds of crores of rupees of Public exchequer are involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) The required information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.